accelerated processing and implementation of FDI, enlarging the list of industries eligible for automatic approval of FDI liberalising norms for automatic approval of technological collaboration, reducing the number of industries under compulsory licensing, allowing for 100% foreign equity participation in power sector for electricity generation, transmission and distribution provided foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crores. All these measures are expected to promote investment and attract more foreign capital to India. No country specific policy changes have been proposed.

Development of growth centres in Maharashtra

4348. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the development of five growth centres in Maharashtra is very dismal due to non-release of funds by the Central Government and neglect by the State Government;

(b) if so, the details of each of the industrial growth centre with their latest status and reasons for their non-completion so far; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to complete the growth centres in the State so that pace of industrialisation begins?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The five growth centres allotted and approved in the State of Maharashtra have already been released Central assistance of Rs. 23.40 crores and the State Government has incurred a total expenditure of Rs. 39.68 crores for development of the growth centres as detailed below:

(Rs. Lakhs)

Name of Growth Center	Central Assistance Released	Total expenditure reported upto 31.12.97	Remarks
Akola	750	1347	625 hect. of land acquired 689 plots developed
Chandrapur	400	836	630 hect. of land acquired.
Dhule	200	327	707 hect. of land acquired
Nanded	550	986	645 hect. of land acquired
Ratanagiri	440	472	Rs. 414 lakhs have been spent on industrial infrastructure.

Central assistance limited to Rs. 10 crores per centre is to be released depending upon the financial and physical progress achieved by the State Government which is responsible for the implementation of the Growth Centres.

Public Audit for PSUs

4349. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the PSUs do not come under the purview of public audit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to do so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL): (a) to (c) PSUs are subjected to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General and Parliamentary scruitiny, which ensure public accountability.

Workers covered by VRS

4350. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of workers covered by the Voluntary Retirement Scheme since the inception of National Renewal Fund;

(b) the total amount disbursed so far; and

(c) the number of workers who were redeployed after their retirement under the scheme?